Hagarty, E W Principal, Harbord At. Coll. Institute I May June 1920 (072)

May 29th, 1920

Colonel W. H. Hagarty,
Principal, Harbord Street Collegiate Institute,
Toronto.

Dear Colonel Hagarty:

I have looked into the matter of the Household Science to which you refer, and find that while you are quite right with regard to compulsory German being added in the first year, you have probably overlooked the fact that on page 198 of the Calendar there is another course, called Household Economics, in which no German is required. This second course is open throughout to a graduate who has not German. The first course is intended for those who want to take advanced scientific work in Household Science for which a reading knowledge of scientific German is necessary, particularly for Chemistry. I think therefore that the new regulations will meet the difficulties of the student to whom you refer.

I had thought that announcement was made of the change in the regulations with regard to Matriculation, which was authorized by the Senate, and the Assistant Registrar has informed me that they are going to the papers at once.

Yours sincerely,

President.

E. W. HAGARTY, M.A.,
PRINCIPAL.

HARBORD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, TORONTO

TORONTO, May, 31, 1920.

Sir Robert Falconer,

President,

University of Toronto.

Sir,

With reference to the putting on of compulsory German for the department of Household Science, I may say that the difficulty complained of exists in the case of a student who wishes to take the Household Science, not Household Economics.

This student set about preparing for her University course on the basis of the Calendar as it was issued in 1919. She now finds that the notice given her was not reliable and is in the position of going up unprepared for her first year work.

I think the University should deal fairly by its prospective students and not alter courses without due notice admitting of proper preparation. If this kind of thing is to go on I fear the University will get itself into trouble with the public to whom it is amenable as a state institution.

I would suggest that an effort be made to remedy the wrong that is thus being done.

It is not long since the University announced in deference to public opinion that German would not be necessary for any ~~departmental~~ Honour course. Is it because public opinion is thought to

have cooled down that the declared policy of the University is being altered in this regard? Do you not think that students of Household Science can get all the knowledge of Science they require without having recourse to German texts?

I certainly do not think that faith should be broken with students who, looking forward to a certain course, took the University at its word and prepared accordingly.

Yours truly,

E. W. Haganey

Principal,

Harbord Collegiate Institute.

I should be glad if you would consider this letter as official correspondence and bring it before the Senate at its next regular meeting. E. W. H.

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June 4th, 1920

Colonel C. H. Hagarty,
Principal, Harbord Collegiate Institute,
Toronto.

Dear Principal Hagarty:

You are under a misapprehension as to what was done with regard to German a year ago or more. At that time compulsory German was removed from all courses except those in Modern Languages and from those scientific courses for which a reading knowledge of Scientific German is necessary. The new and more elaborate course in Household Science, which has recently been established is one of these scientific courses in which a reading knowledge of German is required for scientific purposes. However, in view of the fact that not sufficient was given as to the introduction of this course a reading knowledge of Scientific German in the first year will not be made compulsory in the forthcoming session.

As I wrote you in my last letter there is a parallel course which qualifies for specialist certificate, which is an honour course, and which will be taken by the great majority of students in which German is announced as entirely optional.

Yours sincerely,

President.

E. W. HAGARTY, M.A.
PRINCIPAL.

HARBORD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, TORONTO

TORONTO, June, 8, 1920

Sir Robert Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir Robert,

I have your letter of June 4th regarding changes in curriculum for Household Science, and I thank you for the same. The letter covers fairly well the points I have raised, but I trust in future the mistake will be avoided of precipitating changes in existing arrangements and thus disconcerting the plans of those who rely upon information placed in their hands apparently in good faith.

This question might arise: Will facilities for learning German be provided for those students who did not prepare themselves for undergraduate requirements in this respect but who wish to take the course which they had planned?

If German is not forced upon those who wish to qualify for Teacher's Specialist standing in Household Science, or its substitute, of course the injury complained of will not be so great.

I think the old idea of going to Germany for all sorts of enlightenment and inspiration was overdone, and the necessity largely imaginary. At any rate it seems to have been carried farther than British self-respect would justify.

Yours truly,

E. W. Hagarty